DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Kelley DATE 1/10/83
PS 8-4 US-Isr
EXEMPTION(S)
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

file Liberty IAI

227

NEA/IAI
Mr. Lissfelt

Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Secretary Rogers has asked me to reply to your letter of February 6 concerning the inquiry of Mr. Abdeen M. Jabara. Mr. Jabara is of the impression that Israel has not paid compensation on the claims for death and personal injury, and for damage to the ship, arising out of the June 8, 1967 attack on the USS Liberty.

On December 29, 1967 our Embassy in Tel Aviv presented to the Government of Israel claims totalling $3,323,500 on behalf of the families of the 34 men killed in the attack. After negotiations, Israel paid in full the amount claimed on May 27, 1968. On March 28, 1969 our Embassy in Tel Aviv presented claims totalling $3,452,275 on behalf of the injured men, and Israel paid in full the amount claimed on April 28, 1969. In both cases, United States Treasury checks drawn on the funds received from the Government of Israel were sent to the claimants within a month after the Israeli payment was received. Negotiations on the claim for damage to the ship are still in process.

I hope this information will be of assistance to you in answering Mr. Jabara's inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

H. G. Torbert, Jr.
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations

cc: AmEmb Tel Aviv
w/incoming
(to be sent by NEA/IAI)

L:L/C:ELKerley:ams 2/13/70
RS #2637 x21366
S/S #2334 cc: S/S - Mr. Hornblow

NEA/IAI - Mr. Lissfelt
H - Mr. Leahy
NEA/IAI - Mr. Atherton